

CLAIMS

1. A coated stainless steel strip product with a dense and evenly distributed layer on one side or both sides of said strip *characterized in that* said layer consists of essentially one or several of the metals gold, copper, nickel, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, tin or tungsten, that the thickness of said layer is preferably maximally 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , that the tolerance of said layer is maximally +/- 30% of the layer thickness, that the Cr content of the steel strip substrate is at least 10%, and that the layer has such a good adhesion that the coated steel strip can be uniaxially stretched to fracture by tensile testing without showing any tendency to peeling, flaking or the like.

2. Product according to claim 1 *characterized in that* the thickness of the strip substrate is between 0,015 mm and 3,0 mm.

3. Product according to claim 1 or 2, *characterized in that* it is made of a substrate of austenitic stainless steel, or duplex stainless steel, or hardenable martensitic chromium steel, or precipitation hardenable stainless steel, or maraging steel with a minimum tensile strength of 1000 MPa in the cold rolled or heat treated condition.

4. Product according to any of preceding claims, *characterized in that* the layer has a multi-layer constitution of up to 10 layers.

5. Product according to claim 4 *characterized in that* each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. Product according to claim 4 *characterized in that* each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 to 11  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. Product according to claim 4 *characterized in that* each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. Product according to claim 5, *characterized in that*  
the layer has a multi-layer constitution of individual  
5 layers of different metallic coatings, such as Ag, Ni, Mo,  
Co, Au, Mo, W, and/or Sn.

9. Product according to claim 8, *characterized in that*  
the layer may consist of alloys of at least 2 the elements  
according to claim 1.

10 10. A product according to any of the claims 1-9,  
*characterized in that* it is suitable for use in load  
carrying applications where a low contact resistance at the  
surface is advantageous.

11. A product according to any of the claims 1-9,  
15 *characterized in that* it is suitable for the production and  
use of spring elements is switches, connectors, metallic  
domes etc.

12. Method of manufacturing a coated stainless steel  
strip product according to any of the preceding claims,  
20 *characterized in that* said product is produced in a  
continuous roll-to-roll process included in a strip  
production line using electron beam evaporation comprising  
an etch chamber in-line.